



# KINGJAMES VERSION BIBLE, can you forgive somebody, but not accept their apology?

According to the **King James Version (KJV) Bible** and mainstream Christian teaching, you can forgive someone even if you do not accept or receive their apology—or even if they never apologize at all. The Bible emphasizes the importance of forgiveness as a personal act, not necessarily dependent on the other person's repentance or apology.

Key points from the KJV and Christian teaching:

- **Mark 11:25 (KJV):** Jesus says, "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses." This implies that forgiveness is something you do in your heart, regardless of whether the other person has apologized<sup>[1][2]</sup>.
- **Matthew 18:21-22 (KJV):** Jesus tells Peter to forgive "seventy times seven," emphasizing the ongoing nature of forgiveness, not its dependence on repeated apologies<sup>[3]</sup>.
- **Luke 6:27-28 (KJV):** Jesus commands, "Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." This teaching extends forgiveness and love even to those who are unrepentant or hostile<sup>[4]</sup>.
- **Personal release vs. reconciliation:** Forgiveness in the biblical sense is often about releasing bitterness and anger from your own heart. However, *full reconciliation* or restoration of relationship generally requires repentance and apology from the other party. You can forgive someone in your heart without restoring the relationship if trust has been broken and there is no genuine repentance<sup>[5][1]</sup>.

"We must do our part in the forgiveness. This is what Jesus meant, I think, when he said, 'Love your enemies . . . bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you' (Luke 6:27-28). They are still our enemies when we do that. They have not asked for any forgiveness, and they don't think they need any, making life miserable for us — and they think they ought to. We are to bless them, and that blessing means that our part of the inward forgiveness has happened."<sup>[4]</sup>

**In summary:**

You can forgive someone without accepting their apology, or even if they never apologize. Forgiveness is a command and a personal act that frees you from bitterness. However, reconciliation and restored trust may require genuine apology and repentance from the other person<sup>[1][2][5]</sup>.

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1. <https://www.freegrace.ca/ask-fgbc-23-can-you-forgive-someone-who-has-not-apologized-or-asked-for-forgiveness/>
2. <https://biblicalcounseling.com/resource-library/podcast-episodes/til-053-should-i-forgive-someone-whos-not-sorry-they-sinned/>
3. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+18%3A21-35&version=KJV>
4. <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/can-i-forgive-someone-who-doesnt-confess-wronging-me>
5. <https://rts.edu/resources/must-i-forgive-someone-who-doesnt-ask-for-forgiveness/>